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Written testimony of
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Commerce Committee

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CT General Assembly

Reference: Proposed H.B. No. 6650 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS

Good morning Senator LeBeau and Representative Perone and other distinguished members of your committee. I am Mike Morrissey, from Glastonbury. I am also the Connecticut State Director to the National Propane Gas Association. Today, I represent our local trade association members who provide propane gas service to our state and all of the customers they serve. I am here to speak in **opposition** to H.B. No. 6650: AN ACT CONCERNING ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS.

"HERE YE, NOT ALL THINGS ARE CREATED EQUALLY AROUND HERE" More on that in just a moment. Propane, *Americas other natural gas*, is domestically produced and has been used for over a 100 years in our nation. When natural gas is not available, propane is positioned to be the next best consumer energy choice offering all the same benefits of natural gas, plus one, its portability allowing it to virtually appear anywhere.

Now here is the rub, despite the fact the lion's share of propane is domestically produced from natural gas wells and is environmentally friendly, this proposed legislation clearly has its sights on penalizing propane and its customers in a really big way. The BTU content of propane is significantly less than the equivalent measurement of fuel oil. Because of this, this legislation is asking the propane customer to contribute in excess of 50% more to a fund which in the end, stands a very good chance of being misdirected for purposes not originally intended. As such, this legislation is really sugar coating something that is really no more than a new tax. Asking the propane customer to make double the contribution to a new state tax is not fair at all.

Why do we want to so severally hurt a fuel that is already helping our state and nation in so many positive ways! It does not make sense to me and I hope it makes no sense to you now. Propane customers all use electricity and have been paying into this fund for years. We suggest to you, they pay no more.

I would welcome any questions you have now?